

the **WAKEFIELD** High School **PTA** Bulletin

JANUARY 1961

Meeting: Monday, January 23 - 8:00 p.m.

DISCUSSIONS BY GRADE LEVELS

Meeting places and participants shown below

Refreshments in Cafeteria after discussion period, with browsing table as added "attraction." You will want to attend this meeting, so be sure to mark your calendar!

Our capable vice-president, Mrs. Alice Letzler, and her program advisors (one for each grade level) have arranged a program which should stimulate much thought and discussion. Parents will go directly at 8 o'clock to the room indicated for the grade level. Each discussion group will have a panel of school staff members and parents who will speak briefly on matters of concern to parents of students in that particular grade. Most of the time will be reserved for general questions--either written or oral. Following this "food for thought," somewhat more tangible refreshments will be served in the cafeteria by Mrs. Lyda Velt and her Hospitality Committee.

10th Grade Group
Library
8 to 9:30 p.m.

Chairman - Mrs. John (Fay) Rosado, PTA Program Advisor
Division Director - Mr. Henry Renz, Assistant Principal
Guidance Counselor - Mr. Lawrence Winkler
Athletic Director - Mr. Milo Sonen
Social Activities - Mrs. John Carpenter, parent
Recorder - Mrs. Langdon West, parent

11th Grade Group
Room 102
(Music room)
8 to 9:30 p.m.

Chairman - Mrs. Frank (Esther) Piovia, PTA Program Advisor
Division Director - Mr. Richard Johnson
Guidance Counselor - Mr. Richard Neal
Social Activities - Mrs. Herbert (Ada) Brown
Recorder - Mrs. J. Don (Harriet) Parel

12th Grade Group
Room 101
(Choral room)
8 to 9:30 p.m.

Chairman - Mrs. Arnold (Bertha) Shostak, PTA Program Advisor
Division Director - Mrs. Mary F. Mare, Assistant Principal
Guidance Counselor - Miss Evelyn Wilson
Social Activities - Mrs. John (Dorothy) Rowsey
Recorder - Mrs. David (Ida Lee) Sliney

To make this program a success, good attendance is a MUST. As it is on the Monday following a Friday holiday (Inauguration), please remind any Wakefield parents whom you see or talk with. Let's start the New Year off right!

COMING UP:

School Board's Third Public Roundtable - "Use of Teachers' Time"
Choral Music Room, Yorktown High School, 5201 N. 28th Street., January 31, 8 p.m.

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NEED FOR INNOVATION

On February 17, 1897, there was a new innovation in Washington, D. C.--the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was organized to promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, church, school and community. PTA's have been living up to this objective. Mrs. Eva Anderson, legislator, educator and writer of Chelan, Washington, stated:

"I have no children of my own, but I never failed to join and to boost the PTA. The PTA is the 'right arm' of the school. In no other organization do we get so much for comparatively so little. No parent can afford not to belong. I have seen the PTA in action. I know its strength at the grass roots and in the halls of legislation. Many of us know from personal experience that good schools are found where strong PTA organizations exist."

There is a reason. PTA's bring community cooperation for the school program and support policies and legislation of benefit to the education and welfare of children.

Recently there has been pressure for our school administration to show the film, "Operation Abolition", to Arlington students. This film was prepared by the House Un-American Activities Committee about the student riot in San Francisco last May, protesting that Committee. It is difficult to get the facts on this matter, but there are several things that seem to me important that are illustrated by this instance:

(1) If we are not careful, we can scare ourselves and our children so that even if we believe in a particular viewpoint, we will be afraid to express our feelings, either as individuals or as an organized group. We can generate a "McCarthy" type fear supported by the knowledge that if we speak out we run the danger of being pilloried by an Un-American Activities Committee or a super-patriot group.

(2) The future of our Country, and perhaps the world, depends on innovations in the economic, social, and political areas of our lives to meet the challenges forced upon us by a rapidly changing environment and the severe competition of the cold war. In an atmosphere of fear and suspicion, new ideas are suspect and very often won't develop. Complacency and satisfaction with the past has led to the downfall of many institutions, countries, and even civilizations.

(3) I find it difficult to assume, as the House Un-American Activities Committee does, that the students in San Francisco were merely dupes. They were at the Courthouse, I suspect, because they didn't like the Un-American Activities Committee device as an instrument of Government. They may have been inspired to act, based on this conviction, in a manner they might not normally engage in; but let's face it--the dissatisfaction had to be there or there would not have been anybody to demonstrate with. I think there are many people through out the country who feel the same way--and many Congressmen, too--but most of them are afraid to speak out, although a few have been doing so recently.

Therefore, if the film is shown in our schools, it should be accompanied by an assignment to read the editorial in the Washington Post of December 28, 1960, to get the other side of the picture. Also, if this important issue is seriously to be studied, I would recommend a good book on the subject by Alan Barth, "The Loyalty of Free Men."

I personally believe that the Department of Justice and the Courts are our (and our children's) most reliable safeguards against subversion under our Constitution, while at the same time allowing free speech and the testing of new ideas in a Democratic environment on the basis of an idea's validity--not merely whether it conforms to present notions or whether or not it is popular.

Theodore W. Taylor, PTA President

THANKS TO OLD DOMINION BANK FOR PRINTING OUR PTA BULLETIN!